

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BATRACHIANS AND REPTILES
COLLECTED IN THE VICINITY OF LA GUAIRA, VENE-
ZUELA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES
OF SNAKES.

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The collections here reported upon were made in 1895 by Captain Robinson, and in 1900 by Messrs. Robinson and Lyon jointly.

For detailed information relating to their trips, the localities visited, etc., the reader is referred to the introductory remarks by the collectors in their paper on the mammals, pages 135 to 162 of this volume.

I. BATRACHIA.

ECAUDATA.

PHYLLOBATES TRINITATIS Garman.

Garman's original description¹ fits the two specimens from Venezuela and contains nothing by which I can separate them. In the specimens before me the tibio-tarsal articulation reaches to the anterior border of the orbit; first finger is shorter than second; there is a large metacarpal pad, and two metatarsal tubercles, the inner one being almost as long as the diameter of the largest digital disk, though narrower; on the lower half of the tarsus a very distinct fold, which is a continuation of the lateral narrow fringe of the inner toe, extending from the base of the latter obliquely across the underside of the tarsus to the median line. The blackish lateral band is very broad between shoulder and groin, and semidivided lengthwise by a whitish line extending forward somewhat obliquely from the groin; a blackish longitudinal streak on anterior face of upper arm. The dusky band across the chest is not well marked in No. 27808.

With the latter there are 11 tadpoles, which adhered to its back when caught.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Remarks.
27792	7	La Guaira	July 2, 1900	With tadpoles.
27808	43	San Julian	Aug. 8, 1900	

¹ Bull. Essex. Inst. XIX, 1887, p. 13.

LEPTODACTYLUS OCELLATUS (Linnæus).

In both specimens the tarsal fold is quite distinct.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22539	A3	La Guaira	June 22, 1895
27793	16	.....do	July 8, 1900

Captain Robinson writes regarding specimen No. 22539:

Common. Taken in acequia near the town. This frog makes a noise like the sound of water gurgling from a bottle, only it is a single note and louder. They make in the weeds in the water's edge a "bird's nest" of bubbles, or rather more like the whipped-up white of eggs and even more gelatinous. The depression in the center goes entirely through, and the frog sits in the water below, with its nose and eyes appearing in the bottom of the nest.

BUFO MARINUS (Linnæus).

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22537	A5	La Guaira	June 22, 1895
22538	A4	.....do	do.
27796	6	.....do	July 2, 1900
27800	21	.....do	July 15, 1900
27801	22	.....do	do.
27802	20	San Julian	July 20, 1900
27803	24	La Guaira	July 15, 1900
27804	26	.....do	do.
27805	25	.....do	do.
27806	23	.....do	do.
27807	29	San Julian	July 20, 1900

According to Captain Robinson this species is common and well known under the name "Sapo," the Spanish word for toad. Their eggs are laid in long glutinous cords.

HYLA VENULOSA (Laurenti).

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22545	A6	La Guaira	June 22, 1895
27797	8	.....do	July 3, 1900

Captain Robinson's remarks about No. 22545 are as follows:

Taken swimming in the acequia. I was attracted to it by its loud, monotonous note like the bleating of a goat, and fully as loud. It was heard a long distance. On each side of its head it has a sac which can be largely inflated, and which were so inflated when the animal was caught.

HYLA CREPITANS Wied.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22541	A52	La Guaira	July 24, 1895
22542	A30	.....do	June 26, 1895
22543	A10	.....do	June 22, 1895
22544	A22	.....do	June 24, 1895
27791	17	.....do	July 10, 1900
27794	4	.....do	July 2, 1900
27795	5	.....do	do.

According to Captain Robinson, Nos. 22541 to 22544 were caught on upper surface of large green leaves overhanging water. No. 22542 was colored light buff above, below orange. No. 22543, which is much smaller, was very pale green with whitish eyes.

II. REPTILIA.

SAURIA.

GONATODES VITTATUS (Lichtenstein).

No. 27820 has a white, black-margined dorsal band and black converging lines on throat, exactly as Dr. Werner describes a specimen from Trinidad.¹ The other is uniformly drab above, with large, rounded, black and pale spots, which are smaller and less pronounced on head and extremities. There are also some dusky lines in front of and behind the eyes; underside uniform whitish.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
27819	27	San Julian	July 19, 1900
27820	26	.....do	do.

THECADACTYLUS RAPICAUDA (Houttuyn).

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22514	A 26	La Guaira	June 25, 1895
22515	A 29	.....do	June 26, 1895
27790	11	.....do	July 5, 1900

According to Captain Robinson's notes, the first two specimens were caught in a damp and dark gorge, clinging to the bare trunks of large trees. He adds that they change color to suit the background.

¹ Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien, 1900, p. 263.

ANOLIS CHRYSOLEPIS Duméril and Bibron.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22522	A 16	La Guaira	June 23, 1895
22523	A 17	.....do	do.
22524	A 18	.....do	do.
22525	A 20	.....do	do.
27818	20	.....do	July 12, 1900

The distended dewlap is "red," as noted by Captain Robinson. His specimens were caught in small bushes with the butterfly net.

IGUANA IGUANA (Linnæus).

The specimens are perfectly typical, showing no tendency toward *I. rhinolphus*. In the only two specimens with well-developed dorsal spines, viz, Nos. 22516 and 27817, the number of spines between their origin on the nape and the level of the vent is 56 and 59, respectively.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Sex.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22516	Female...	A 24	La Guaira	June 25, 1895
22517	.....	A 11	.....do	June 22, 1895
27817	Male	18	.....do	July 10, 1900
27827	.....	.....	Rio Chico.....	.....
27828	.....	.....	.....do .....	.....

POLYCHRUS MARMORATUS (Linnæus).

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
27783	10	Maento.....	July 5, 1900
27784	14	Cucuruti	July 7, 1900
27785	15	.....do	do.

PLICA PLICA (Linnæus).

Boulenger has followed Gray in applying "*Uraniscodon* Kaup" to the present genus, a course not warranted by the history of the case, which is as follows:

In 1825 Kaup¹ plainly based his *Uranoscodon*, as he then wrote it, on *Agama superciliosa*, though including both *L. plica* and *umbra* in the genus. These species were excluded by Boie a few months later,² and the amended name *Uraniscodon* restricted more emphatically to *A. superciliosa*. This fixes the latter as the type, and the subsequent application of *Uraniscodon* to the present genus is inadmissible. On the contrary, the genus which Boulenger credits to Fitzinger as "*Ophrygoessa*," 1826 (though spelled by Fitzinger *Ophryyessa*), must henceforth be known as *Uranoscodon* Kaup, 1825.

¹Isis, 1825, p. 590.²Isis, 1825, p. 1090.

Fitzinger's *Ephymotes*, which he established in 1826 without indicating a type, might have been applicable to the present genus, as it embraced nominally both species which Boulenger now includes in it, but in 1843¹ he clearly indicates the type to have been a young specimen of *Polychrus marmoratus*, of which genus it thus becomes a synonym.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
27798	9	La Guaira	July 3, 1900
27799	13	.....do	July 5, 1900

AMEIVA AMEIVA (Linnæus).

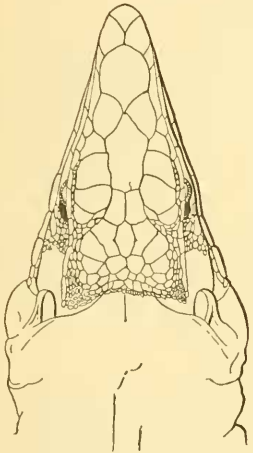


FIG. 1.—AMEIVA AMEIVA, × 2.

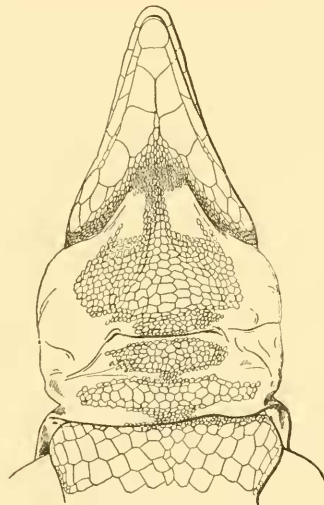


FIG. 2.—AMEIVA AMEIVA, × 2.

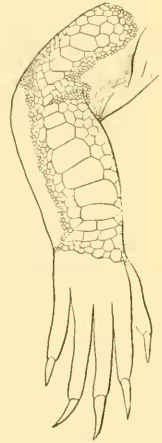


FIG. 4.—AMEIVA AMEIVA, × 2.

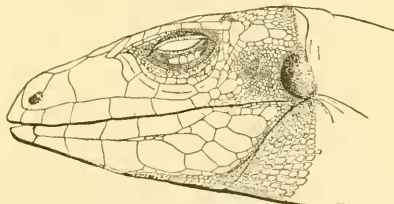


FIG. 3.—AMEIVA AMEIVA, × 2.

¹Syst. Rept., pp. 61-62.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22526	A 25	La Guaira	June 25, 1895
27787	3	.....do	July 2, 1900
27788	12	.....do	July 5, 1900

This species, according to Captain Robinson, is common at La Guaira, where it is known as the "mato." He describes the color of the living animal (No. 22526) as follows: Head, brown above; chin and throat, black; center of back, bronze green. Lives in burrows, and has a habit of licking out its forked tongue like a snake.

CNEMIDOPHORUS LEMNISCATUS (Daudin).*List of specimens.*

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.
22528	A 1	La Guaira	June 21, 1895
22529	A 8	.....do	June 22, 1895
27786	2	.....do	July 2, 1900
27809	31	.....do	July 25, 1900
27810	33	.....do	do.
27811	32	.....do	do.
27812	27	.....do	July 15, 1900
27813	37	.....do	July 25, 1900
27814	34	.....do	do.
27815	36	.....do	do.
27816	35	.....do	do.
27829	.....	Rio Chico .....	.....
27830	.....	.....do .....	.....

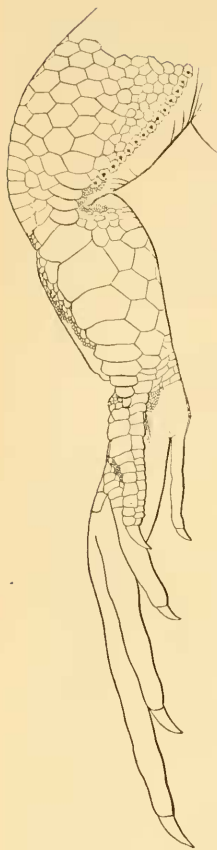


FIG. 5.—AMEIVA AMEIVA,
× 2.

Captain Robinson's notes contain the following description of the living animal (No. 22528):

Head, neck, front legs, and portions of hind legs "birds'-egg" blue; flanks golden green; back of head and back brownish, with fine lighter stripe, then darker; tail greenish; iris bright yellow. He adds that this is by far the commonest lizard on the Venezuelan coast. It runs with great rapidity. During the halts, after its little darts, it has the habit of nervously patting one of its fore feet as if in a hurry to make another start.

SERPENTES.

BOA RUSCHENBERGII (Cope).

The generic name *Boa* must be retained for the genus afterwards known as *Corallus* Daudin (1803), while *Constrictor* must be used for the group ordinarily designated as *Boa*, as will be seen from the following analysis.

In 1758 Linnaeus established the genus *Boa*, in which, among other species, he included *B. canina*, *B. constrictor*, and *B. orophias*. Of course he indicated no generic type, which must therefore be ascertained by the process of elimination. In 1768 Laurenti subdivided the genus into two genera, for one of which he retained the name *Boa*, proposing *Constrictor* for the other. *Boa* he made to contain three nominal species, but they all belong as synonyms to Linnaeus's *B. canina*, which, therefore, must stand as the type. *Constrictor*, on the other hand, contains the two other Linnean species mentioned above (the additional *B. divinoloquus* being only a synonym of *B. orophias*).

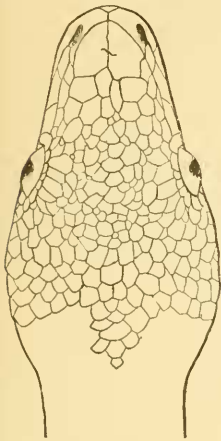


FIG. 6.—BOA RUSCHIENBERGII, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

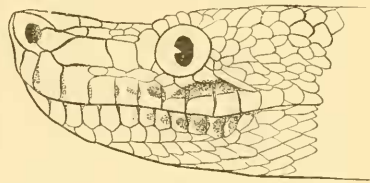


FIG. 7.—BOA RUSCHIENBERGII, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

The case is as plain as it can possibly be, and the well-known *Boa constrictor* must henceforth be known as *Constrictor constrictor*.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Subcaudals.
27832	Rio Chico .....	.....	43	260	109

PHRYNONAX LYONI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Scales in 23 rows, smooth except three median ones which are feebly keeled; ventrals 199; anal 1; subcaudals 111 pairs; preocular well separated from the frontal; eight upper labials, posterior very long; interparietal suture equals length of frontal as well as the distance of the latter from tip of snout.

Type.—Cat. No. 27826, U.S.N.M.; Macuto, Venezuela; August 4, 1900; M. W. Lyon, jr., collector.

Habitat.—Venezuela.

Description of type specimen.—Rostral much broader than deep, visible from above; internasals slightly shorter than prefrontals; frontal much longer than broad, as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, and as long as the interparietal suture; parietals as long as frontal and half the interprefrontal suture; loreal as long as deep; one preocular, not in contact with frontal; two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2; eight supralabials, fourth, fifth, and sixth entering eye, eighth

very long; six lower labials (seven on left side) in contact with anterior chin-shields, which are slightly shorter than posterior; scales in 23 rows, smooth except three median rows which are feebly keeled; two apical pits; ventrals 199, distinctly angular laterally; anal entire; subcaudals 111 pairs. Black above, each scale with a yellowish spot, without forming any stripes or definite pattern; throat and anterior third of under side white (in alcohol) with a narrow black edge on each side of the ventrals from about the thirty-eighth ventral, these black edges becoming broader posteriorly, so as to finally occupy the whole of the ventrals with the exception of two pale lateral spots; head above black, each plate with a few yellowish spots; supralabials yellowish (white in alcohol), the black of the sides of the head invading the upper edge angularly, but vertical sutures not blackened.

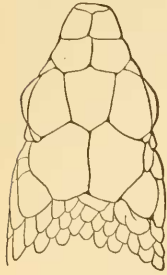


FIG. 8.—*PHRYNONAX LYONI*, $\times 1$.



FIG. 9.—*PHRYNONAX LYONI*, $\times 1$.

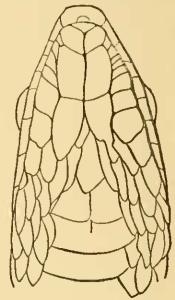


FIG. 10.—*PHRYNONAX LYONI*, $\times 1$.

Total length, 1,085 mm.; tail, 270 mm.

Remarks.—*Phrynonax lyoni* appears to be allied to *P. guentheri*, from Mexico, from which it differs chiefly in the

fewer supralabials and the longer parietals. The coloration is quite similar, black with yellow spots, but there are no regular longitudinal stripes on the body or on the tail, and the sutures of the supralabials are not marked with black.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
27826	38	Macuto.....	Aug. 4, 1900	23	199	1	111/111

DRYMOBIUS BODDAERTII (Senzen).

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
22535	A 7	La Guaira.....	June 22, 1895	.....	.....	.....	.....
27822	37	Macuto.....	Aug. 2, 1900	17	182	1/1	106/106

Color of No. 22535 given by Captain Robinson as brownish with obscure lighter stripes; iris reddish brown. Shot on edge of acequia.

LEPTOPHIS AHÆTULLA (Linnaeus).



FIG. 11.—LEPTOPHIS AHÆTULLA, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

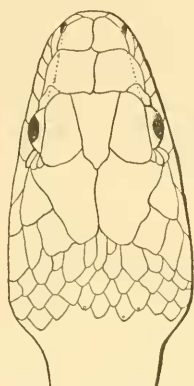


FIG. 12.—LEPTOPHIS AHÆTULLA, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

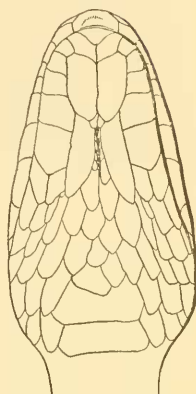


FIG. 13.—LEPTOPHIS AHÆTULLA, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

Both Lönnberg and Andersson, from examination of the Linnean type specimens, have come to the conclusion that the species often known as *L. liocercus* (Wied) is the true *Coluber ahætulla* of Linnaeus.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
27821	39	Macuto.....	Aug. 8, 1900	15	164	11	134/134
27831		Río Chico.....					

CLELIA DOLIATA (Duméril and Bibron).

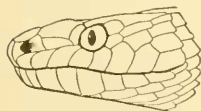


FIG. 14.—CLELIA DOLIATA, $\times 2$.

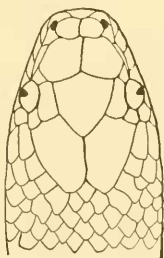


FIG. 15.—CLELIA DOLIATA, $\times 2$.



FIG. 16.—CLELIA DOLIATA, $\times 2$.

As Fitzinger in plain words indicated Daudin's *Coluber doliata* as the type of his new genus *Clelia* there can be no excuse for the retention of Wagler's *Oxyrhopus* which is four years younger. I may add here

that it appears preferable to separate the groups of species with undivided subcaudals as a distinct genus, for which Schneider's *Pseudoboa* is available.¹

The specimen before me is in most excellent condition and shows the original coloration to perfection. The anterior six black crossbars are broader than the light interspaces, which are white with black tip to each scale; all the following interspaces are broader than the black bars, being



FIG. 17.—CLELIA SEMICINCTA, $\times 2$.

bright red, with the row adjoining the black bars pure white and all tipped with black; the black bars on neck and body (29) invade the ends of the ventrals, while those on the tail (15) are continuous across the underside, forming complete rings; black on top of head reaches to the posterior third of the parietals; first black crossbar begins on the fifth scale behind the parietals. This specimen agrees in every particular with the two enumerated by Boulenger as "B"² and has the identical scale formula. It differs, consequently, from the type specimens described by Duméril and Bibron, and from Boulenger's specimen A, in which the majority of the black bands form more or less complete annuli. It is

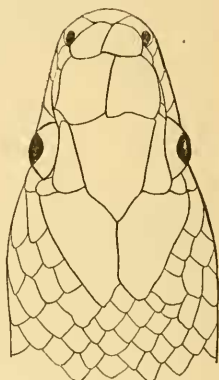


FIG. 18.—CLELIA SEMICINCTA, $\times 2$.

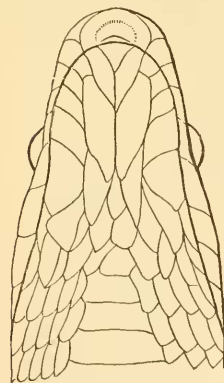


FIG. 19.—CLELIA SEMICINCTA, $\times 2$.

also to be noted that the two specimens of the latter group have 191–199 ventrals and 61–65 subcaudals, while in the former the ventrals are 183–186 and caudals 77–80. The exact locality of the type specimen is not known, nor that of the three specimens in British Museum. On the other hand, Dr. Boettger³ records two specimens of *Oxyrrhopus doliatus* from Santa Ana, Province Cuzco, Peru, without giving particulars as to coloration and scale formula. Under the circumstances it is impossible to say whether the differences indicated above are of specific significance, which, in view of the geographical distribution, would certainly seem to be the case, if the Peruvian specimens should be found to agree with the type of *C. doliata* and with specimen A in British Museum.

It should be noted in this connection that the type of Cope's *Oxyrr-*

¹ Schneider, Amph., II, 1801, p. 281. The type, by elimination, is *P. coronata*.

² Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus., III, 1896, p. 106.

³ Kat. Schlangen Mus. Senckenb., 1898, p. 97.

rhopus doliatus semicinctus (Cat. No. 28900, U.S.N.M., Costa Rica, Gabb, collector) (figs. 17-19) is colored like the Venezuelan specimen so far as the underside is concerned, the bars on neck and body numbering 25 and the rings on tail 13, but the dark bars and rings throughout are broader than the light interspaces, which are not regularly spotted with black; the black bars anteriorly often alternate and coalesce broadly on the median line. The scale formula differs also considerably from those mentioned above, being as follows: Scale rows, 19; ventrals, 200; anal, 1; subcaudals, 90-90.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Sub-caudals.
27823	44	La Guaira....	Aug. 11, 1900 ..	19	184	1	79-79

PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII (Duméril and Bibron).

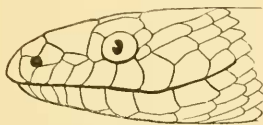


FIG. 20.—PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$.

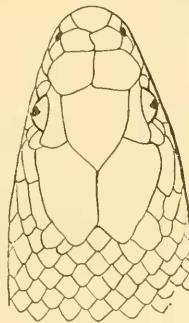


FIG. 21.—PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$.

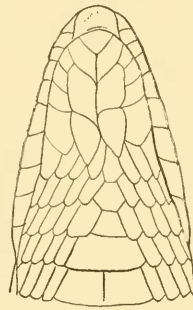


FIG. 22.—PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$.

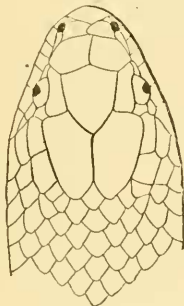


FIG. 24.—PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII, $\times 2$.



FIG. 23.—PSEUDOBOA NEUWIEDII, $\times 2$.

The specimen from La Guaira differs from two from Trinidad in having a wide, white band across occiput, as in young *Clelia clelia*.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Sub-caudals.
27824	19	La Guaira....	July 10, 1900 ..	19	182	1	89

PSEUDOBOA ROBINSONI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Scales in 19 rows; ventrals, 186; anal single; subcaudals, 82, single; posterior nasal and loreal widely separated by second labial which is broadly in contact with prefrontal; rostral prominent, slightly upturned, broader than deep, the portion visible from above one-half as long as its distance from the frontal; supralabials eight.



FIG. 25.—PSEUDOBOA ROBINSONI, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

Type.—Cat. No. 22532 U.S.N.M.; La Guaira, Venezuela; June 21, 1895; Capt. Wirt Robinson, collector.

Habitat.—Venezuela.

Description of type specimen.—Eye rather small; snout projecting; rostral large, prominent, slightly upturned, broader than deep, its upper portion forming an obtuse angle and measuring one-half its distance from the frontal; internasals slightly shorter than prefrontals; frontal much longer than broad, equally its distance from tip of snout and longer than interparietal suture; parietals as long as frontal and one-half the interprefrontal suture; loreal small, much longer than deep, broadly separated from posterior nasal; one preocular scarcely reaching the upper surface and widely separated from frontal; two postoculars; 2 + 3 temporals, the upper one of the first row only in contact with postoculars; eight supralabials, second broadly in contact with prefrontal and sixth in contact with upper anterior temporal, fourth and fifth entering eye; four lower labials in contact with anterior chin-shields, which are slightly longer than the posterior; scales smooth, in 19 rows, with two terminal pits; ventrals, 186; anal single; subcaudals, 82, single; color (in alcohol), above, uniform drab, becoming paler on the three lower scale rows; top of head and a spot on upper neck behind occiput darker; underside, including upper labials, uniform whitish.

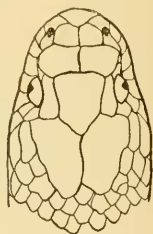


FIG. 26.—PSEUDOBOA ROBINSONI, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

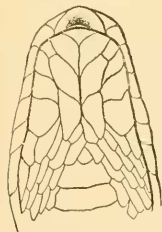


FIG. 27.—PSEUDOBOA ROBINSONI, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.

Total length, 700 mm; tail, 175 mm.

Remarks.—*Pseudoboa robinsoni* in some respects occupies an intermediate position between *P. newwiedii* and *P. guerini*, having a snout more projecting than the former, but less so than the latter, though the portion of the rostral visible from above is not greater

than in *P. newwiedii*. It differs from both most strikingly in the separation of the loreal from the posterior nasal, the second supralabial thus coming broadly in contact with the prefrontal.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
22532	A 2	La Guaira	June 21, 1895	19	186	1	82

OXYBELIS ACUMINATUS (Wied).



FIG. 28.—OXYBELIS ACUMINATUS, × 2.

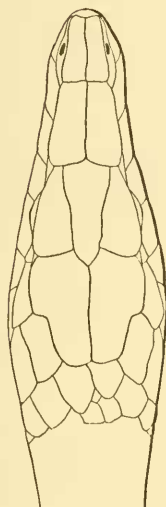


FIG. 29.—OXYBELIS ACUMINATUS, × 2.

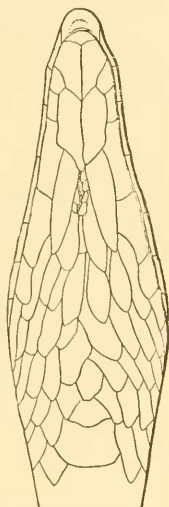


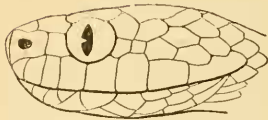
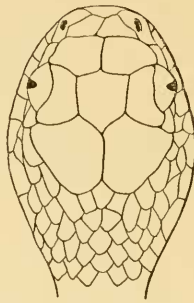
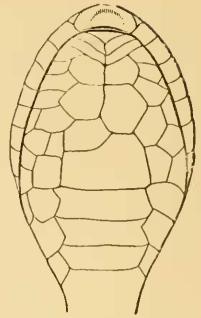
FIG. 30.—OXYBELIS ACUMINATUS, × 2.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
22536	A 28	La Guaira	June 26, 1895	.....	.....	.....	.....
27825	30	San Julian	July 21, 1900	17	182	2	166/166

Captain Robinson writes that this snake in crawling carried from one-third to one-half of its body erect in the air. It was killed on the ground.

LEPTOGNATHUS VARIEGATUS Duméril and Bibron.

FIG. 31.—LEPTOGNATHUS VARIEGATUS, $\times 3$.FIG. 32.—LEPTOGNATHUS VARIEGATUS, $\times 3$.FIG. 33.—LEPTOGNATHUS VARIEGATUS, $\times 3$.

The specimen collected by Captain Robinson has fewer supralabials than the normal number credited to this species. In view of the great variability of this character, and also because the present specimen is manifestly abnormal on the left side, I have not attached any importance to this circumstance. On the left side there are only eight supralabials, nevertheless the third is excluded from the eye, which is only in touch with the fourth and fifth. On the right side the number of supralabials is nine, third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye. Nasal is apparently undivided.

List of specimens.

U.S.N.M. No.	Collector's No.	Locality.	When collected.	Scales.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
22531	A 15	La Guaira	June 23, 1895	15	179	1	81/81

Captain Robinson writes that this snake was coiled up in a tight knot at the end of a twig on a small bush. A blow from the handle of his butterfly net killed it, but it hung until taken down.

CHELONIA.

TESTUDO DENTICULATA Linnæus.

Four live specimens of this common South American land tortoise were brought home and deposited in the National Zoological Park.

The collectors state that these turtles are eaten by natives, who call them *morocoys*.